

Remarks

The Applicant acknowledges the indication that claims 7-10, 13-21, and 28-33 recite patentable subject matter. The Applicant submits the amended claims submitted with this response are all patentable over the art.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11, 12, 22-27, and 34-41 as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art. The Examiner interprets the previously presented claims to read on the right-cylindrical (constant-diameter) bearings disclosed in the prior art. The Applicant has thus amended the pending independent claims to recite that the bearing surfaces are concave or convex along at least a portion of their axial lengths. This language is supported in the drawings of the application and in the written description. For example, on page 11, line 15, the convex inner bearing surface is described as having a thickness greater at its middle than at its end portions. The claim limitations added in this amended are thus supported by the specification and do not constitute new matter. The Applicant thus submits that each of the pending claims thus distinguishes the admitted prior art. All of the bearing surfaces of the admitted prior art are flat along their axial length – not concave or convex.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for the claims.

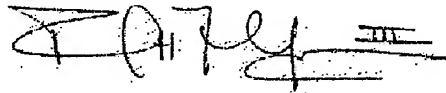
Please call the undersigned attorney if any issues remain after this amendment.



Fred H. Zollinger III
Registration No. 39,438
Zollinger & Burleson Ltd.
P.O. Box 2368
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: 330-526-0104
Fax: 1-866-311-9964

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I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment B in application serial no. 10/632,459 filed 31 July 2003) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail (with sufficient postage) in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, OR is being transmitted by facsimile to 571-273-8300 on June 22, 2006.



Fred H. Zollinger III, Reg. No. 39,438